

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5057

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR RP

SUBJECT: MRS. MARCOS RETURNS FROM YET ANOTHER TRIUMPH

1. IN USUAL FULSOME DETAIL, MANILA PRESS REPORTED MRS. MARCOS' JULY 1 RETURN FROM HER 18-DAY VISIT TO JAPAN, MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES IN TIME FOR JULY 2 BIRTHDAY. ARRIVAL CEREMONY WAS COVERED LIVE BY RADIO AND TV. IN HER BRIEF STATEMENT, LIBERALLY SPRINKLED WITH ROYAL "WE", MRS. MARCOS SAID PHILIPPINES HAD ACHIEVED SUPPORT OF SUGAR BLOCK IN LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN ON NEED FOR JUST, REALISTIC AND STABLE PRICE FOR SUGAR IN WORLD MARKET AND INDICATED GROUP MIGHT MEET IN LIMA IN SEPTEMBER TO WORK OUT PROGRAM. SHE ALSO SAID PHILIPPINES HAD MADE FURTHER PROGRESS IN EFFORT IDENTIFY ITSELF MORE CLOSELY WITH THIRD WORLD.

2. ONE SHORT PARAGRAPH IN ARRIVAL STATEMENT REFERRED TO CONTACT WITH USG OFFICIALS: "IN ADDITION, WE ALSO DISCUSSED BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WITH RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE US GOVERNMENT WHO CALLED ON US IN NEW YORK." BULLETIN SPECULATED SHE MAY HAVE DISCUSSED BASES. THIS RATHER BARE COMMENT PRECEDED BY JUNE 30 REPORT BY-LINED BY MARIA TERESA MANUEL (DAILY EXPRESS CORRESPONDENT WHO DOUBLES AS MRS. MARCOS' FLACK TO EFFECT

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THAT IN NEW YORK MRS. MARCOS HAD "RECEIVED CALLS FROM

A NUMBER OF HIGH OFFICIALS IN THE WHITE HOUSE, STATE DEPARTMENT AND CONGRESS, WHO INVITED HER TO VISIT WASHINGTON DURING HER TRIP." REPORT SAID MRS. MARCOS HAD DECLINED THESE INVITATIONS, SINCE SUGAR PROBLEM REQUIRED HER ATTENTION. EVENING EXPRESS STORY OF JUNE 30 ALSO CLAIMED WASHINGTON SOURCES INDICATED THAT WHITE HOUSE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO VISIT OF PRESIDENT MARCOS, WHO WAS LAST IN U.S. FOR EISENHOWER FUNERAL IN 1969.

3. COMMENT: MRS. MARCOS' PERSONALITY CULT CONTINUES TO METASTASIZE. ON HER "NATAL DAY," PRESS IS CHOCK FULL OF PIECES ON HER MAJOR TRIUMPHS AND EDITORIALISTS PRAISE HER LATEST SUCCESSFUL DIPLOMATIC MISSION. WHATEVER REALITIES MAY BE OF HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 18-DAY TRIP, AND PROBABILITY THAT CLAIMS HER BEHALF SEEM DIS-PROPORTIONATE EVEN TO FILIPINOS, PRESIDENT CLEARLY DETERMINED TO PERPETUATE IMAGE OF WIFE AS MAJOR GOVERNMENT FIGURE.
PURNELL

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